SFX: FWOOSH
CONSUME THE SOUL...
OF THE BAKU...?
SFX: STEP
GO SOMEWHERE ELSE FIRST.
LET'S...
HUH?
...DO THAT...?
WHY SHOULD I...
CHAPTER 7
I'LL TELL YOU...
ABOUT THAT "CURSE" OF YOURS.
WHAT IS THE METHOD TO SLOW DOWN THE CURSE?!

A Laughing Stone Ghost

AUTHOR: KEIICHIRO ARITA

PRESENTED BY: Café con Lenin

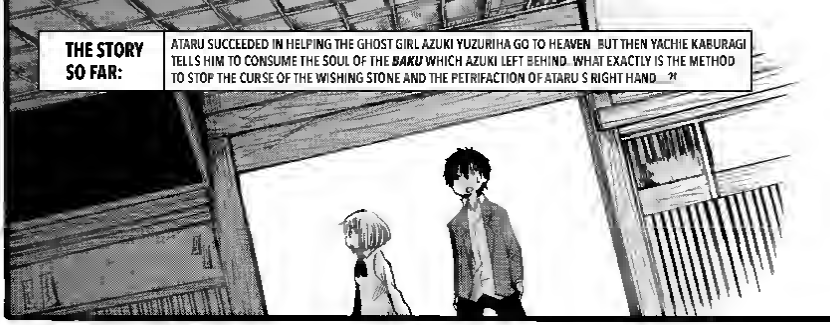
RAW
TRANSLATION
PROOFREADING
EDITION

UXORIOUS
WILLEKE4439
MCRICEYY
LOLOO4,
REYZYROUT

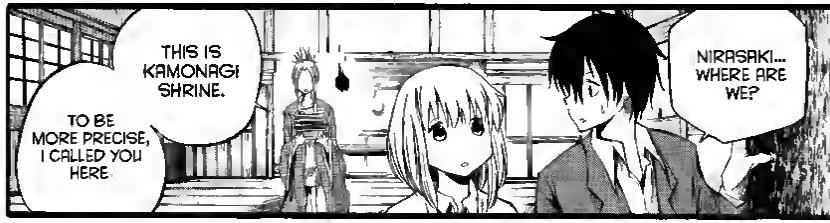
VISIT US AT
CAFECONLENIN.COM

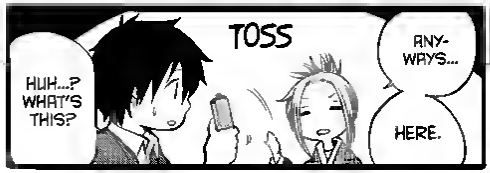
SUPPORT THE MANGA INDUSTRY
BY ACQUIRING THE OFFICIAL VOLUMES
ONCE THEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN
YOUR REGION/COUNTRY

PITCH-BLACK GHOST HORROR ENTERING A NEW ARC!!!!
IN THIS OLD TEMPLE, SECRETS, MYSTERIES AND DEMONS LIE CONCEALED!!
VOLUME 1 OF THE MANGA, NOW ON SALE!!
噛ら石
わらいし
SUPERNATURAL
a Laughing Stone Ghost
KEIICHIROU ARITA


THE STORY SO FAR:
ATARU SUCCEEDED IN HELPING THE GHOST GIRL AZUKI YUZURIHA GO TO HEAVEN. BUT THEN YACHIE KABURAGI TELLS HIM TO CONSUME THE SOUL OF THE BAKU WHICH AZUKI LEFT BEHIND. WHAT EXACTLY IS THE METHOD TO STOP THE CURSE OF THE WISHING STONE AND THE PETRIFACTION OF ATARU'S RIGHT HAND...?!

AND OLD BOOKS...
IT'S FILLED WITH TALISMANS...
WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

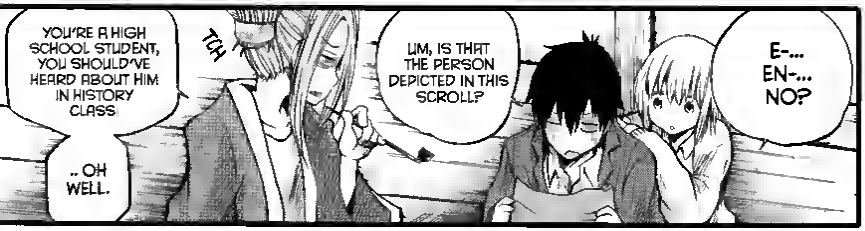

TO BE MORE PRECISE, I CALLED YOU HERE.
THIS IS KAMONAGI SHRINE.
NIRASAKI... WHERE ARE WE?


HUH...? WHAT'S THIS?
TOSS
ANY-WAYS...
HERE.

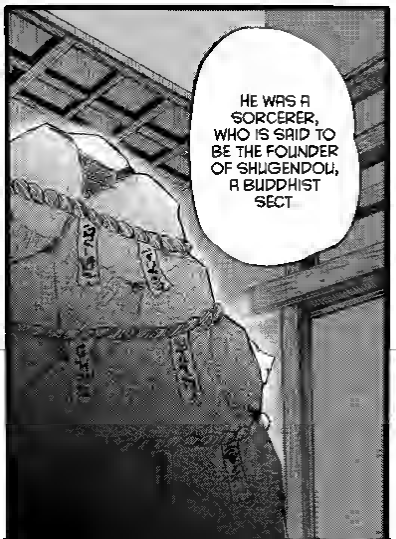
THERE.
THIS SHRINE PROSPERED UNTIL THE BEGINNING OF THE MEIJI PERIOD...
BUT NOW I'M USING IT AS A STORE-HOUSE.

IT'S AN OLD DOC-UMENT.
A SCROLL...?

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A FIGURE CALLED "EN NO OZUNO"?


YOU'RE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, YOU SHOULD'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM IN HISTORY CLASS.
.. OH WELL.
TCH
UM, IS THAT THE PERSON DEPICTED IN THIS SCROLL?
E-... EN-... NO?

IT IS KNOWN THAT HE MADE A PILGRIMAGE THOUGH THE WHOLE COUNTRY, FROM THE ASUKA PERIOD UP UNTIL THE NARA PERIOD. AND THEY SAY HE EMPLOYED DEMONS, WHO HELPED HIM EXORCISE EVIL SPIRITS THAT WERE HARMING THE PEOPLE.


HE WAS A SORCERER, WHO IS SAID TO BE THE FOUNDER OF SHUGENDOU, A BUDDHIST SECT

BUT YOU...
MIGHT GET SOMETHING ELSE OUT OF IT.
THIS SCROLL IS A MEMOIR WRITTEN BY SOMEBODY WHO WAS SAVED BY OZUNO
I'LL TRANSLATE IT FOR YOU.
TO ORDINARY PEOPLE, IT'LL JUST SEEM LIKE A FANTASTICAL STORY.
IN THE YEAR 671...
MY VILLAGE WAS BEING PLAGUED BY INEXPLICABLE EPIDEMICS AND NATURAL DISASTERS. THERE WERE ALSO ACCOUNTS OF PEOPLE BEING SPIRITED AWAY.
WE COULD NOT DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, SO WE WERE EXHAUSTED AND DESPONDENT.

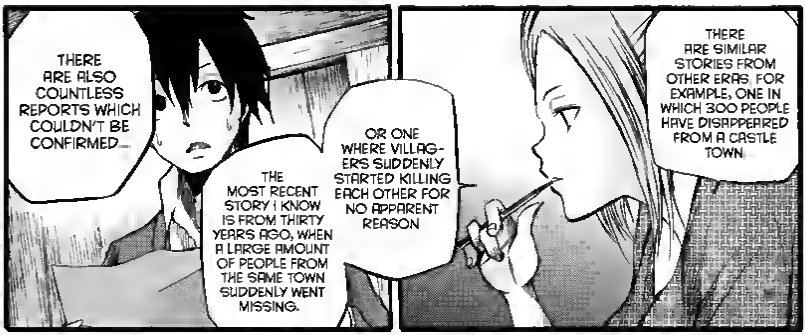
THE FIRST THING HE SAID, WAS...
A MYSTERIOUS MAN APPEARED. HE HAD COME TO OUR VILLAGE AFTER HE HEARD ABOUT OUR MISFORTUNES. BY HIS SIDE THERE WERE TWO DEMONS.
BUT THEN...
TO SOLVE YOUR PROBLEMS?
WON'T YOU TRUST ME...

THIS IS ALL THE DOING OF EVIL SPIRITS.

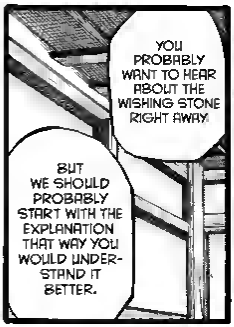
HOW-EVER, THAT NIGHT...
I SAW THE MAN SLIP AWAY FROM THE BANQUET WE HELD. OUT OF CURIOSITY I FOLLOWED HIM.
AND THEN...
I SAW WITH MY VERY OWN EYES...
THE MAN EXTERMINATED ALL THE EVIL SPIRITS THAT WERE PLAGUING OUR VILLAGE, AND SOON AFTER THE PEOPLE'S ILLNESSES DISAPPEARED.
THE VILLAGERS WERE OVERJOYED AND ADVOCATED THE MAN AS AN "EMISSARY OF THE GODS."

AND HIS TWO DEMONS ...
HOW THE MAN...
WERE DEVOURING SOMETHING... I DID NOT KNOW WHAT IT WAS...
THE NEXT DAY, THE MAN HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE VILLAGE
I BECAME FRIGHTENED AND RAN AWAY

AND? DID YOU GET SOMETHING FROM IT?
THE END.
THAT HE'D EVER EVEN BEEN THERE
THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE LEFT...


THERE ARE ALSO COUNTLESS REPORTS WHICH COULDN'T BE CONFIRMED...
THE MOST RECENT STORY I KNOW IS FROM THIRTY YEARS AGO, WHEN A LARGE AMOUNT OF PEOPLE FROM THE SAME TOWN SUDDENLY WENT MISSING.
OR ONE WHERE VILLAGERS SUDDENLY STARTED KILLING EACH OTHER FOR NO APPARENT REASON
THERE ARE SIMILAR STORIES FROM OTHER ERAS. FOR EXAMPLE, ONE IN WHICH 300 PEOPLE HAVE DISAPPEARED FROM A CASTLE TOWN.

SFX: JUMP
YOU IDIOT. WHAT I MEAN, IS WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THAT.
THE WISHING STONE!!
ME, ME!
DO YOU GET IT?
THE ONE THING ALL THESE INCIDENTS HAVE IN COMMON...

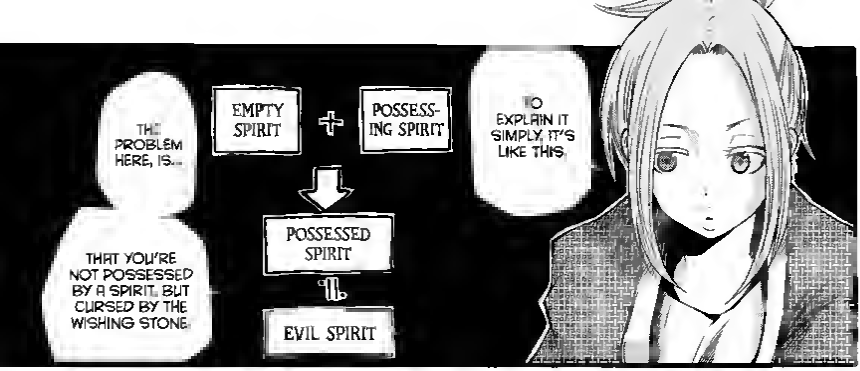

YOU PROBABLY WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THE WISHING STONE RIGHT AWAY.
BUT WE SHOULD PROBABLY START WITH THE EXPLANATION THAT WAY YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.

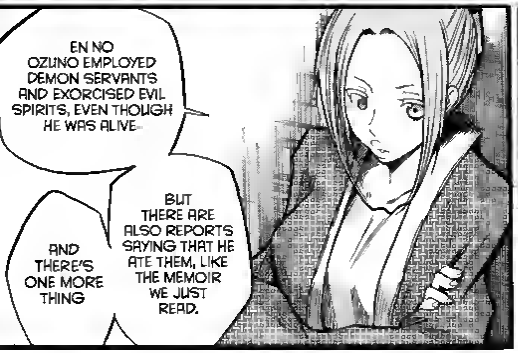
HM.
THE METHOD TO GET RID OF THE CURSE OF THE WISHING STONE, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE DEFINITION OF "EVIL SPIRITS"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
YOU ARE HALF CORRECT.

"BREAKING THE CURSE OF THE WISHING STONE..."

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE WHO ISN'T QUITE FOLLOWING THE CONVERSATION, AFTER ALL.
HUH...? HUH...?
AH... OKAY.

WE CAN DISTINGUISH THREE DIFFERENT TYPES.
WITHIN ALL THE THINGS IN OUR WORLD THAT ARE CALLED "SPIRITS"...
AND FINALLY, THERE ARE "EMPTY SPIRITS" WHO ARE POSSESSED BY "POSSESSING SPIRITS"
"POS-SESSED SPIRITS".
SECOND ARE SPIRITS WHICH DO NOT HAVE THEIR OWN BODIES, SO THEY POSSESS PEOPLE AND INFLUENCE THEM
"POSSESS-ING SPIRITS"
THE FIRST ARE THINGS LIKE FLOATING GHOSTS AND HAUNTING SPIRITS, WHO REMAIN IN THIS WORLD BECAUSE THEY HAVE LINGER-ING FEELINGS OR REGRETS.
THEY ARE FAIRLY HARMLESS
"EMPTY SPIRITS".
CAN BE CATEGORIZED LIKE THIS. BUT THAT'S NOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING RIGHT NOW
ALL THE SPIRITS YOU'VE EN-COUNTERED, LIKE AZUKI AND THE BAKU...
YEAH.
SO YOU MEAN...
THE ONE THAT AZUKI AND I EXORCISED EARLIER WAS ONE LIKE THAT.
THAT THEY CAUSE CALAMITIES, IN SOME SHAPE OR FORM
THEIR SELF AWARE NESS BREAKS DOWN, AND THERE IS A HIGH POSSI-BILITY...
CAN TURN INTO "EVIL SPIRITS" WITH THE PASSING OF TIME
"EMPTY SPIRITS" WHO ARE POSSESSED BY "POSSESSING SPIRITS", OR "POSSESSED SPIRITS"...


TO EXPLAIN IT SIMPLY, IT'S LIKE THIS.
EMPTY SPIRIT
+
POSSESS-ING SPIRIT
POSSESSED SPIRIT
=
EVIL SPIRIT
THE PROBLEM HERE, IS...
THAT YOU'RE NOT POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT, BUT CURSED BY THE WISHING STONE.


EN NO OZUNO EMPLOYED DEMON SERVANTS AND EXORCISED EVIL SPIRITS, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS ALIVE.
BUT THERE ARE ALSO REPORTS SAYING THAT HE ATE THEM, LIKE THE MEMOIR WE JUST READ.
AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING

YOU'RE NOT DEAD, IN THE FIRST PLACE.
...THEN, I'M...
YEAH. WE'LL HAVE TO LOOK BACK AT THE STORY OF EN NO OZUNO

DO YOU GET IT NOW?
THE SORCERER, WHO USED TO HELP PEOPLE, DIDN'T JUST DO IT OUT OF COMPASSION. HE HAD ANOTHER GOAL.

IT WAS SAID TO LOOK LIKE "STONE"...

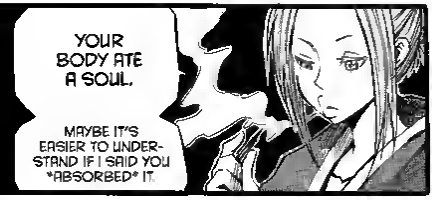
THE SKIN OF HIS RIGHT HAND HAD A DISCOLOR-ATION...

EN NO OZUNO WAS CURSED BY A WISHING STONE...
AND FEARED THAT HE WOULD TURN INTO AN EVIL SPIRIT HIMSELF.
SO DON'T YOU THINK HE MIGHT'VE BEEN ON A JOURNEY TO FIND A WAY TO UNDO THE CURSE?
.....
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
.....
HE'S CHANGED...
.....
LET'S SEE...
SFX: GRAB
HEY ...!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AND...
SHOW ME YOUR ARM.
FIRST, YOU NEED TO BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT...
THAT YOU'RE NOT ENTIRELY HUMAN ANYMORE. YOU'RE CLOSER TO BEING SOMETHING LIKE A SPIRIT OR DEMON. SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL.

THE STONE PART OF MY HAND... HAS GOTTEN BIGGER...
AH...
AND NEXT... YOU HAVE TO KNOW..
THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO COMPLETELY REMOVE THE CURSE FROM PEOPLE...
WHO HAVE USED A WISHING STONE...
SFX - WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH
...HUH?
HOWEVER.

WH-...
WHAT...?
NO...
IT'S MY...
IT'S
AZUKI'S...
SFX: FWOOSH

SFX: WHOOSH
THINGS ARE DIFFERENT...
IF YOU CAN EAT SOULS, LIKE THIS.


YOUR BODY ATE A SOUL.
MAYBE IT'S EASIER TO UNDERSTAND IF I SAID YOU *ABSORBED* IT.

WHAT ...JUST HAPPENED ...TO ME?!
HEY... WHAT DID YOU ...JUST...

LOOK AT YOUR RIGHT HAND
STOP NAGGING! PUTTING SOMETHING IN YOUR MOUTH ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO EAT SOMETHING, YOU IDIOT
I ATE IT...? LIKE THAT...?
HUHP

AH...
D-DID IT HEAL...?
NO, IT DIDN'T.
IT JUST STOPPED.

THE PETRIFIED PART... HAS GOTTEN SMALLER.
LISTEN.
YOUR CURSE CAN'T BE LIFTED COMPLETELY. BUT AS WRITTEN IN THE RECORDS, THERE IS A WAY TO SLOW DOWN ITS PROGRESS.

IN THIS WORLD, THERE ARE MANY "SUPERNATURAL THINGS" WHICH NORMAL PEOPLE CAN'T SEE. YOU JUST WEREN'T AWARE OF IT BEFORE.
IT'S NOT ALWAYS CLEAR IF THEY ARE GOOD OR EVIL THOUGH.

HEY— WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF HE DIDN'T EAT ANY?
.....
THEN YOU'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO EAT THEIR SOULS TO SURVIVE.
BUT IF YOU WANT TO CONTINUE LIVING AS A "HUMAN,"
IF HE DIDN'T EAT ANY SOULS...
HE WOULD SURELY...
CREATE HIS OWN CURSE...
AS IN THE CASE OF AN EVIL SPIRIT ....
HE WOULD CURSE, HATE, ENVY, PUNISH AND BRING DEATH TO THE PEOPLE AROUND HIM.

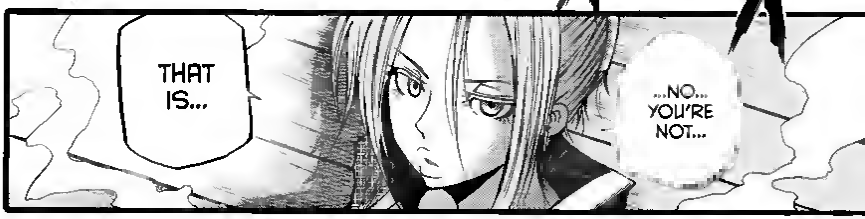
IN THAT CASE...
I...
YACHIE-SAN...
I'LL DO IT...
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO IT...!
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, OR DON'T DO, I'VE ONLY BEEN CAUSING TROUBLE FOR OTHERS...
THEN ...
I'LL FIND IT... I'LL...
IF YOU DIE LIKE THAT, YOU MIGHT STILL CURSE OTHER HUMANS, YOU KNOW?
I'LL STRUGGLE AS HARD AS I CAN!
I'LL EAT ALL THE DEMONS AND SPIRITS OR WHATEVER... AND STAY HUMAN, UNTIL I DIE!
...THAT'S WHY...

I'LL FIND A WAY TO BREAK...
THE CURSE OF THE WISHING STONE...!
.....
PFFT.
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
SFX: SHOCK
WH-... WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!!
AHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHA!
...HEH HEH HEH HEH.
HEY... I'M BEING SERIOUS HERE...
NO.. I WAS JUST THINKING HOW NAIVE YOU ARE...
BWAHA
HAHA
!!
POOF
YEAH!
YOU'RE SO COOL, ATARU-KUN.
RIGHT, NIRASAKI?
AH... IT'S FINE. YOU GO AND DO THAT.
AHH, THAT WAS HILARIOUS

.....
BLUSH...
NO MATTER WHICH PATH YOU CHOOSE TO TAKE...
I'LL ALWAYS HELP YOU, ATARU-KUN.
TH-... THANKS ...
PFFT.
YOU'RE BOTH SO NAIVE!
SNAP

CRACKLE
PHEW...
.....
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO SEE...
HOW HE WILL DEVELOP...
HIS "BONDS" ...

オオオオオオ
ROAR
ROAR
ROAR
.....
...WHAT ...?
SFX: ROAR



A LAUGHING STONE GHOST

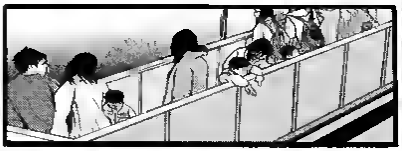
-PART 2-

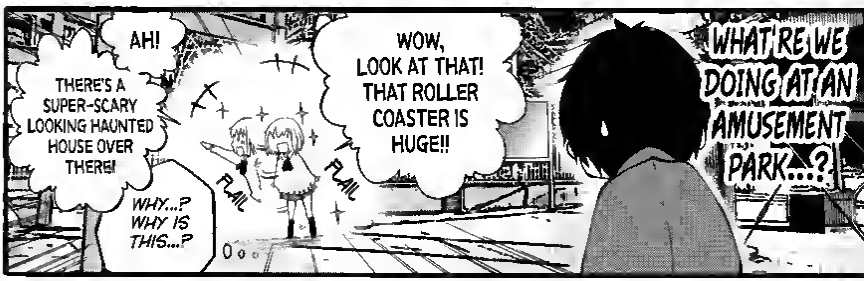
"BONDS"

HOW YOU LAUGH.

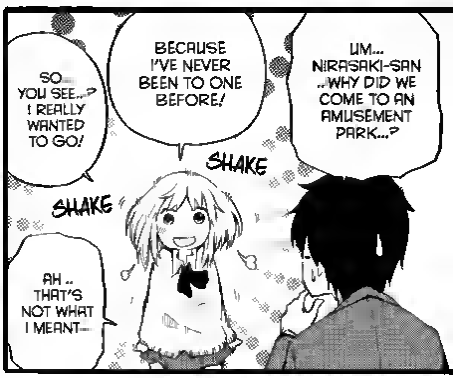
NOW I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON...
HUH?
YOU'RE GONNA EAT SOULS, AREN'T YOU?
BUT WHAT SHOULD I ACTUALLY BE DOING...?
...YEAH.
NOT ALL OF THEM WOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE, OR UNDERSTAND MY SITUATION
IT MAY NOT ALWAYS GO AS SMOOTHLY AS WITH AZUKI...
AH.
HOW SHOULD I FIND AND GATHER THEM?
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
!
HEY! I KNOW!
COME WITH ME, ATARU-KUN!
...HUH?
I ACTED ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT'D WORK OUT SOMEHOW...
BUT NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE TO START...
AAAA AAAAA AAAAA AHH...
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH
AH

...AND...?




AH!
THERE'S A SUPER-SCARY LOOKING HAUNTED HOUSE OVER THERE!
WHY...? WHY IS THIS...?
FLAIL
FLAIL
WOW, LOOK AT THAT! THAT ROLLER COASTER IS HUGE!!
WHAT'RE WE DOING AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK...?

BUT WITH SO MANY PEOPLE GATHERED HERE, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A SPIRIT OR TWO, DON'T YOU THINK?
...HMM... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...


UM... NIRASAKI-SAN ..WHY DID WE COME TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK...?
BECAUSE I'VE NEVER BEEN TO ONE BEFORE!
SO... YOU SEE...? I REALLY WANTED TO GO!
SHAKE
SHAKE
AH .. THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT--

LOOK, LOOK!
I WANNA RIDE ON THAT!
IT LOOKS FUN!
HEY, WAIT...! NIRASAKI...
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE A BREAK ONCE IN A WHILE!
RIGHT?
COME TO THINK OF IT...

NO, STOP !!
ARE YOU READY ?
HAS IT BEEN...
HOW LONG ...
SINCE I PLAYED WITH SOME-ONE LIKE THIS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME...
I LAUGHED LIKE THIS ...?
AH...
OOPS...

HEY, ATARU-KUN! I WANNA GO ON THAT RIDE ONE MORE TIME!
AHAHAHAHA
I'M TIRED... MY BODY FEELS HEAVY...
IN THE END, WE PLAYED AROUND ALL DAY. WHAT THE HECK AM I DOING...?
WHY DOES SHE STILL HAVE SO MUCH ENERGY...?
SFX: ZOOM
WAIT HERE, OKAY?
I'LL COME BACK AFTER I'VE GONE ON IT THREE MORE TIMES!
FINE THEN! I'LL GO BY MYSELF!
GEEZ! YOU'RE SO WEAK!
...SORRY... I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE...
BOO
BOO
HER STAMINA IS AMAZING...
...HM?
.....
COULD SHE BE...
POSSESSED BY SOME-THING...?
THAT PERSON ...
.....
AH...

THEN MAYBE "HAVE YOU NOTICED ANYTHING STRANGE AROUND YOU AS OF LATELY?"
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY? "HEY, YOU YOU'RE BEING POSSESSED"?
NO, THAT SOUNDS EVEN MORE LIKE A SCAM! I'M AN IDIOT!!
NO WAY, I'D SOUND LIKE SOME KIND OF SCAMMER.
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? IF SHE'S REALLY POSSESSED
SHOULD I TELL HER ...?
I SHOULD JUST TALK TO HER, BUT KEEP MY DISTANCE...
ANY-WAYS, CALM DOWN..
UM... I THINK
STARE
I NEED AN EXCUSE TO TALK TO HER...
AH...
"I DROPPED MY HANDKER-CHIEF." "CAN YOU LEND ME YOUR PHONE?" "I SLIPPED AND FELL." "WHAT TIME IS IT?" ETC...
OOPS!! I STARED AT HER TOO MUCH... IT'S A BAD HABIT OF MINE!!
IS THERE... ANYTHING... WRONG?
UM...
ピン
AHH...
WAIT...

YOU... CAN SEE ME?
HUH?
.....
ARE YOU A GHOST...?
YES, I AM.
.....
AH.. UM.. COULD YOU BE— THIS IS GOING TO SOUND REALLY RUDE, BUT...

I FOUND YOU.
AH, THIS SUCKS.
SO GHOSTS HANG OUT TOGETHER AND GO ON DATES AT AMUSEMENT PARKS NOWADAYS, HUH.
...TIMES HAVE REALLY CHANGED.
NO WAY! HOW SHAMELESS! THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE!
...SO?
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO?

HIDDEN TEXT: THERE'S SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE AN EVIL SPIRIT BEHIND YOU

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO...
SFX: FWOOSH
REMOVE IT.
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE JULY ISSUE!!